GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1577
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
NATIONAL HORTICULTURE BOARD
ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL;BRAHMANAND MANDAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board (NHB) has provided loan and financialassistance to the private limited companies without bank guarantee in complicity with board officials thereby causing a financial loss of Rs.90.60 lakh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action against the errant officials;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d): The National Horticulture Board (NHB) set up for promoting integrateddevelopment of horticulture in the country has been taking up programmes on various aspects from production to post harvest management of horticulture produce. The Board has taken up various schemes during the 8th Plan for overall development of horticulture by providing loan/soft loan/subsidy to co-operative societies/farmers associations/NGOs/corporate & private sector/State Agro Industry Corporations etc.Two cases of fake/misplaced bank guarantees have come to the notice. In one case, the Board has provided loan of Rs.9,37,500/- and subsidy of Rs.3,12,500/- for procurement and installation of 50 juice vending machines under its Scheme, namely, `Alternate Structure for Marketing of Fruit Juices/Fruit based Beverages Scheme.'In the other case the Board had provided soft loan of Rs.49.68 lakh for setting up post harvest infrastructure facilities like cold storage, pre-cooling unit, refrigerated van and retail outlets with subsidy of Rs.5.00 lakh for the procurement of plastic crates under the Scheme, namely, `Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops.' The Board has lodged First Information Report (FIR) under variousSections of Indian Penal Code with the Police Authorities for investigation in the above cases. After the Police investigation, criminal cases have been filed in the respective courts in both the cases. The Board has also filed civil suits in both the cases for recovery of the NHB`s funds alongwith interest.The matter is being pursued by the Board in the respective courts and the same is sub-judice.